

8 February 2012

English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Forty-ninth session
Vienna, 6-17 February 2012
Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
Space-system-based disaster management support**

**United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for
Disaster Management and Emergency Response
(UN-SPIDER): proposed workplan for the
biennium 2012-2013 (Revised)**

Note by the Secretariat

At its fiftieth session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that progress reports on the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) and its future workplans should be considered by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee under a regular agenda item on space-system-based disaster management support and that the agenda item should be included in the list of issues to be considered by its Working Group of the Whole.

At the forty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space a proposed workplan for the biennium 2012-2013 of the activities to be carried out by the UN-SPIDER Programme was presented (see A/AC.105/C.1/2011/CRP.15) with a request for additional contributions needed to ensure the full implementation of the proposed activities. Based on the resources made available the UN-SPIDER Programme has revised the proposed workplan for the biennium 2012-2013 together with the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices during the 3rd Annual Meeting of UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices (RSOs) held on 6 and 7 February 2012 in Vienna. The annex to this document contains the revised proposed UN-SPIDER workplan for the biennium 2012-2013.

* A/AC.105/C.1/L.310.



Annex

United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER): proposed workplan for the biennium 2012-2013 (Revised)

The UN-SPIDER Programme was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution 61/110 of 14 December 2006, to provide universal access to all countries and all relevant international and regional organizations to all types of space-based information and services relevant to disaster management to support the full disaster management cycle. The programme seeks greater understanding, acceptance and commitment by countries on ways of accessing and developing capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle.

Mission Statement: *Ensure that all countries and international and regional organizations have access to and develop the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle.*

A Gateway to Space-based Information for Disaster Management

1. Knowledge Management

The acquisition, processing, and transfer of knowledge is a core activity of the UN-SPIDER programme. Since its establishment the programme has been working on the implementation of the Knowledge Portal which centralizes content material on space-based information and solutions which can support disaster-risk management and emergency response. Additionally, UN-SPIDER recognizes the need to provide the latest information on events and activities undertaken by the space and the disaster management communities, as well as on the activities conducted by UN-SPIDER and partners worldwide. The UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices will have an increasing role in this activity ensuring on the one hand that information available at the national and regional level is incorporated into the Knowledge Portal and on the other hand ensuring that end users do indeed access the information available.

Activity 1.1: Maintaining and Expanding content in the Knowledge Portal

Having advanced with the implementation of the Knowledge Portal during the previous biennium, UN-SPIDER will continue to compile and incorporate relevant information and news, including those contributed by user communities. During the 2012-2013 biennium, increased efforts will be made to ensure that UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices, centres of excellence and expert communities interact and share relevant knowledge through the knowledge portal. In addition, the Knowledge Portal will be used to compile and disseminate all relevant information related to the activities conducted by UN-SPIDER and its partners, including on-going and planned initiatives, case studies and best practices (such as for floods,

droughts and forest fires), archived data for disaster studies and capacity-building opportunities.

Emphasis will be placed on expanding and updating knowledge in the Space Application Guides and Technology Guides sections of the portal contributing to keeping end users informed on new technology and applications development.

In collaboration with relevant public and private sector partners, UN-SPIDER will aim at ensuring that the information included in the knowledge portal is geographically referenced and that information on experts and institutions of relevance to end users is made available in a controlled way through the knowledge portal for user input and consultation.

Activity 1.2: Development of additional applications within the Knowledge Portal

Recognizing the need to take advantage of emerging technological advances in information management, including geographic visualization and web-based technologies, UN-SPIDER will continue to improve the technical capabilities of the knowledge portal during the 2012-2013 biennium, building upon the UN-SPIDER World application. In particular, applications will be further developed in order to ensure thematic navigation, geographic overview and intuitive visualization (including geo-visualization) of content with the support of the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices, other centres of excellence, academic partners as well as partners from the private sector.

There will be a need also to replace or upgrade several hardware components (server units, storage capacity) during the biennium (pending availability of funds).

Activity 1.3: Information Sharing

UN-SPIDER will continue complementing its information sharing efforts through the Knowledge Portal with printed and online publications including Newsletters and electronic Updates. The Programme also takes advantage of social media tools such as Google+, Facebook and Twitter to share information on activities conducted by UN-SPIDER and partners, and will continue doing so in 2012-2013.

As a follow-up to the landmark JBGIS/UNOOSA publication “Geoinformation for Disaster and Risk Management – Examples and Best Practices” a second publication will be developed jointly with JBGIS addressing the monetary and operational value of geo-information in disaster management, also known as the VALID Project.

A Bridge to Connect the Disaster Management and Space Communities

2. Support Humanitarian and Emergency Response

Major natural and technological disasters which entail significant loss of life or property are expected to continue occurring in increasing frequency in the years to come. In continuation of the efforts of the previous biennium, UN-SPIDER will support humanitarian and emergency response efforts by making available information on existing opportunities to requesting Member States (through the

nominated National Focal Points) and UN Agencies, focusing on ensuring improved access to and use of available resources and mechanisms.

Building upon the work already carried out in 2010-2011, the programme will focus on the following activities during the 2012-2013 biennium:

(a) Helping end-users build capacity to use all space-based information made available to support emergency events by existing mechanisms and initiatives, aiming at ensuring closer working relationships and agreements with all existing opportunities and mechanisms with the close support of the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices. Additionally UN-SPIDER will work with existing mechanisms aiming at ensuring space-based information is available to support early warning (monitoring), emergency response as well as early recovery;

(b) Providing information to existing mechanisms and initiatives on how they could improve and extend their support, as well as establishing new opportunities;

(c) Aiming at ensuring that providers of space-based information and expertise know who to provide support to;

(d) Continue working with all United Nations entities and Member States to ensure coordination of actions with regard to accessing and using space-based information for selected disaster-risk management and emergency response events;

(e) Continue using the UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal as a hosting environment and dissemination tool of relevant information for selected emergency and humanitarian response events, and;

(f) Increasing the role of the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices in providing support to the countries that request international support.

3. Outreach Activities

Outreach activities contribute to involving experts and practitioners from the disaster management and space communities, as well as institutional representatives from agencies devoted to these tasks, in UN-SPIDER activities and in similar activities organized by partners that promote the use of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle.

As in the previous biennium, outreach activities include the following:

(a) The organization of UN-SPIDER workshops, seminars and expert meetings in all regions;

(b) Support to related meetings organized by partners and which are relevant to the UN-SPIDER mission;

(c) Participation in relevant international policy-making and technical conferences, meetings and workshops through the provision of speakers and awareness raising materials;

(d) Support the participation of disaster management practitioners and experts in regional technical and international seminars and workshops organized by UN-SPIDER the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices and other partners.

3.1 Workshops and Expert Meetings

During the 2012-2013 biennium, activities will include the organization of at least two international or regional workshops, expert meetings and/or seminars bringing together National Focal Points, experts from UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices and other experts. These activities will contribute to bridging the gap between the disaster management and the space communities, and will promote the coordination of initiatives and strengthen the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices.

3.2 Support to workshops and other events organized by Partners

The programme will in 2012-2013 ensure that it:

(a) Provides support to at least two regional and international seminars and workshops organized by partners in the form of travel support for participants from developing countries;

(b) Ensures participation, over the biennium, of expert speakers in at least four relevant conferences and meetings promoting UN-SPIDER activities.

The target audience in the case of outreach activities includes agencies devoted to disaster management and space applications, academic and research centres, NGOs, as well as private technology companies.

The expected outcomes from outreach activities include a larger demand for capacity-building activities; and the establishment of more formal links between space agencies, disaster management and emergency response agencies.

A Facilitator of Capacity-Building and Institutional Strengthening

4. Capacity-Building

Capacity-building and the strengthening of institutional arrangements at all levels is key to increasing the ability of organizations and individuals to effectively access and make use of space based services for disaster preparedness, response and recovery. In 2012-2013 UN-SPIDER will continue implementing the activities as described in the Capacity-Building Strategy (A/AC.105/947), including:

(a) The development and maintenance of a database of training opportunities;

(b) Working with partners, including the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices in the development of training curricula and the corresponding content material;

(c) The development and maintenance of the learning segment within the Knowledge Portal to host the curricula and corresponding content material; and

(d) The facilitation of the realization of short and long-term training in the centres of excellence, including training that will benefit the humanitarian and emergency response community.

The strategy emphasises the need to work with the established Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education affiliated to the United Nations, the network of UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices, as well as other national and

regional centres of excellence in the training of the end users and in the strengthening of national institutions.

The target audience will include practitioners from the disaster management and space communities working in government agencies and staff from academia and research centres devoted to exploring means to bridge the two communities through the development of methods and tools.

4.1 Catalogue of training opportunities

During the 2012-2013 biennium, the programme will continue updating and publishing the three databases on training opportunities focusing respectively on short-term courses, web-based training programmes, and academic programmes leading to an academic degree.

4.2 Development and implementation of the learning segment within the Knowledge Portal

Expected outcomes for the 2012-2013 biennium include the establishment of a learning environment with the Knowledge Portal to host the curriculum and content material to be provided by the network of UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices. Emphasis will be placed on the disaster risk reduction as well as emergency response activities, thus fulfilling the role of UN-SPIDER as a facilitator of capacity-building and the facilitation of the realization of training programmes.

4.3 Support training efforts organized by Partners

UN-SPIDER will further support training events organized by Partners such as the Regional Centres on Space Science and Technology Education which are affiliated to the United Nations and the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices. The support provided to these partners will be linked to the technical advisory support provided by UN-SPIDER to governments which have specifically requested technical assistance on the use of space-based information to support all phases of the disaster management cycle.

The expected outcome from capacity-building activities include the institutionalization regarding the use of space-based information in those countries which have formally requested technical assistance from the UN-SPIDER programme.

5. Networks of Experts

In order to facilitate the work carried out by the programme and build upon the potential of resources and expertise available worldwide the programme strives to consolidate a number of networks which by bringing together groups of experts will ensure a closer coordination of actions and activities for the benefit of all countries in the world. There are basically three networks that the programme implements and strengthen: the network of UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices, the network of National Focal Points, and finally other specific Networks of Experts.

5.1 Network of UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices

The UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices have been established to support UN-SPIDER's technical advisory missions, capacity-building and emergency response efforts; and to act as regional hubs to implement the objectives of the Programme.

During the 2012-2013 biennium, UN-SPIDER will continue strengthening the network of regional support offices engaging RSO experts in the work of the programme, including workshops, technical advisory missions, and capacity-building efforts.

Additionally, the programme will continue organizing at least one meeting a year bringing together representatives from all UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices to plan together the work carried out jointly.

5.2 Network of National Focal Points

A national focal point is a national institution nominated by the Government of the respective country representing the disaster management and space application communities. The role of the national focal point is to work with UN-SPIDER staff to strengthen national disaster management planning and policies and to implement specific national activities that incorporate space-based technology solutions in support of disaster risk management.

The main purpose behind the establishment of National Focal Points has been for UN-SPIDER to be able to cooperate with a single point of contact in a country in order to increase efficiency in cooperation. During the 2012-2013 biennium, UN-SPIDER will consolidate this network of national focal points and will engage them in various workshops and expert meetings at the regional level, aiming at strengthening their respective work at the national level.

5.3 Networks of Experts

UN-SPIDER aims at fostering and supporting expert communities of any kind, as far as their issues are related to the intersection of disaster management and space-based information.

UN-SPIDER so far has provided support to existing networks of experts and also contributed to the establishment of new ones, bringing together the space-based technology and disaster management communities. During the 2012-2013 biennium UN-SPIDER will continue supporting and working with and through relevant networks of experts, especially at the regional level, ensuring that the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices take the leading role in working with these established regional networks.. UN-SPIDER will continue to take benefit of participation of the experts from these network in various technical advisory missions, technical workshops and awareness raising activities.

6. Support at the national level

The UN-SPIDER programme, in close coordination with the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices, will continue to respond to requests from Member States regarding the provision of technical advisory support, including carrying out technical advisory missions. This will contribute to ensuring that countries receive systematic

and continuous technical advisory assistance for using space-based solutions in disaster management plans and policies and in the implementation of risk reduction activities. Such technical advisory support will include:

- (a) Assessing national capacity and evaluating disaster risk reduction activities, policies and plans with regard to the use of space-based technology;
- (b) Facilitating access of national institutions to space-based information and expertise for disaster risk reduction and emergency response;
- (c) Developing and customizing guidelines and templates to incorporate space-based information into disaster risk and emergency response management;
- (d) Identifying training needs and facilitate the implementation of capacity-building activities.

During the 2012-2013 biennium, UN-SPIDER will conduct the following activities:

- (a) Provide technical advisory support to those countries which request such support from the UN-SPIDER Programme, following-up with the implementation of the recommendations put forward during the technical advisory missions;
- (b) Develop guidelines on how to incorporate space-based technology into disaster risk management and emergency response at the national level, including suggestions of specific contributions to national and local policies;
- (c) Strengthen the technical advisory support at the regional level through the organization of regional expert meetings, aiming at building upon the work initiated in the countries that have already hosted a technical advisory mission.

This activity will be carried out in close cooperation with the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices, partner institutions as well as with the work carried out by the secretariat of ISDR and by OCHA and UNDP country offices.